

Message Text

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STATE FOR EUR ARMITAGE AND EUR/WE - BARBOUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO, US
SUBJECT: RFE NEGOTIATIONS

REFERENCE: LISBON 4887 (NOTAL), STATE 193318

SUMMARY: GOP NEGOTIATOR INDICATES A RESPONSE ON DRAFT CONTRACT WILL BE PRESENTED TOWARD END OF AUGUST. ONE SPECIFIC PROBLEM ON DRAFT WHICH HE PRESENTLY FORESEES IN DUTY-FREE ENTRY OF TRANSMITTER EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES. GOP NEGOTIATOR IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE HIS ROLE IN NEW GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. RESPONSE FORTHCOMING: GOP NEGOTIATOR, MAJOR JOSE ANTONIO DE FIGUEIREDO, PRESIDENT OF RADIODIFSAO PORTUGUESA (STATE RADIO), HAS INDICATED TO CARMEN COSTA PEREIRA, RARET MANAGER, THAT HE EXPECTS TO GIVE A DETAILED RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT CONTRACT BY END OF AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER. PEREIRA TOLD EMBOFFS ON AUG. 4 THAT FIGUEIREDO SAID THE MAIN ITEM IN THE DRAFT WHICH
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PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER NEGOTIATION

IS THE DUTY-FREE ENTRY OF RFE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES. ADDITIONALLY, FROM PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS, WE WOULD ASSUME THE QUESTION OF SPECIFYING U.S. OR BIB PARTICIPATION ALSO WILL BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER NEGOTIATION AT THAT TIME. AT ANY RATE, ACCORDING TO PEREIRA FIGUEIREDO'S INITIAL RESPONSES HAVE BEEN POSITIVE.

2. INTERESTED PARTIES REMAIN IN PLACE: FIGUEIREDO REPORTEDLY OFFERED HIS RESIGNATION AS STATE RADIO PRESIDENT WITH NEW GOVERNMENT TAKING SHAPE, BUT HAS AGREED TO STAY ON IN THAT ROLE -- AND AS RFE CONTRACT NEGOTIATOR -- AT THE REQUEST OF PRESIDENT EANES, WHOM HE SERVED AS AN ASSISTANT WHEN EANES WAS PRESIDENT OF STATE TELEVISION IN EARLY 1975. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE SOARES GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO PLACE THE MASS COMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO AT THE SUB-CABINET LEVEL, WITH THE OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF STATE MEDIA MATTERS SERVING DIRECTLY UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER. IN RFE NEGOTIATIONS, THIS COULD BE AN ADVANTAGE, AS WE WOULD EXPECT A FAVORABLE HEARING FROM SOARES. TOMAS ROSA, WHO HAS BEEN THE GOP'S OFFICIAL DELEGATE ("DELEGADO") TO RARET, IS STILL WITHOUT A JOB IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT. ROSA CLAIMS HE HAS THREE JOB OFFERS: PRESIDENT OF STATE TELEVISION, MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE AZORES AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR MADEIRA. IF HE WERE TO BE APPOINTED TO THE FIRST OF THOSE POSITIONS, HE WOULD REMAIN IN LISBON AND CONCEIVABLY COULD STAY ON AS THE RARET "DELEGADO". OF THOSE THREE JOBS, THE STATE TELEVISION SLOT APPEARS THE MOST LIKELY POSSIBILITY.

3. FUTURE STEPS: WE PLAN TO MEET INFORMALLY WITH FIGUEIREDO SOON TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM AND GET HIS FIRST-HAND REACTION TO CONTRACT, NOW THAT HE HAS HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW IT IN SOME DETAIL.
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